MAR 0, 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

plicant:

Boris KOLESNIKOV et al.

COMPOSITE MATERIAL HAVING A REINFORCED

CONNECTING REGION

Appl. No.:

09/700,735

Filing Date:

11/20/2000

Examiner:

J. Rhee

Art Unit:

1772

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 22, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants have enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: